



**Citation**  
to accompany the award of the  
**Joint Meritorious Unit Award**  
to the  
***Combined Task Force Provide Comfort***

*Combined Task Force PROVIDE COMFORT, Incirlik, Turkey, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 5 April 1991 to 16 July 1991. During this period, the tireless efforts, extraordinary skills, and professional dedication of task force members prevented the deaths of thousands of Iraqi Kurds and enabled PROVIDE COMFORT to be the largest, most successful, relief effort in history. Following Operation DESERT STORM, nearly one-half million Iraqi Kurds fled into the mountains bordering Turkey and Iraq. Without shelter, food, clothing, and medical care, conditions deteriorated and the death toll rose to several hundred per day. Task force members stabilized the degenerating conditions and, in just 4 weeks, the death toll shrank to less than five per week. The task force successfully integrated efforts of forces from 13 allied nations, private volunteer organizations, and non-government organizations to aid in the relief effort, maintain the cease-fire with Iraq, relocate the Kurds from remote mountain areas to temporary and supportable sites, and then return them to their homes. The nearly 22,000 coalition personnel delivered over 17,000 tons of relief supplies including tents, bulk food, blankets, and water, while ensuring security for an area larger than 6,200 square kilometers. Through extraordinary effort, the task force prevented what would have become one of the largest human disasters in history. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of Combined Task Force PROVIDE COMFORT have brought great credit to themselves, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America.*

Given under my hand this 18th day of December 1991

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. E. J. S.", is located to the right of the date.

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff